

Inside this issue:

President's Letter	2
Speaker Spotlight	3
Kudos	4
January Meeting Review	5-7
Tips & Tidbits	8
Simply Clear Story	9
Writer by the Sea	10
Word Play	11
Critique Corner	12
Member Contributions	13
NW Review Board	14
NW Information	15

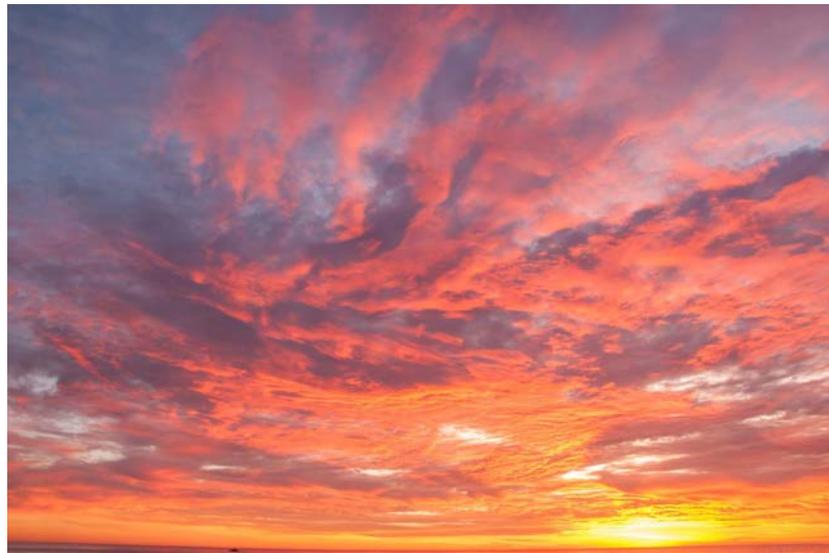
SLO Night Writers



WORDSMITHS



FEBRUARY 2019



Fiery Sunset.

—Photo by Dennis Eamon Young

A Night of Romance— *Romance Writing, That Is!*



Rolynn Anderson, the author of eight published “suspense spiked with romance” novels set in stunning locales, will be the special guest speaker at the SLO NightWriters general meeting, February 12, 6:30 p.m. She will share her journey as a romance writer, speak about specifics of the genre and answer your questions about romance writing.

In her previous life, Rolynn was a high school English teacher and principal in Washington State. She writes/markets, golfs, gardens, reads, and travels.

Wild Rose Press is her publisher for two novels, *Last Resort* and *Lie Catchers* (also an Amazon Encore novel). Self-pubbed are her boutique funeral planner series: *Fadeout*, *Swoon* and *Faint*. Three more stand-alones are *Fear Land*, *Bad Lies* and *Cézanne’s Ghost*. Her newly released *Fire is Nice*, is the first of her National Park Sable Chisholm Mystery Series. Out in 2019: *When Mountains Fall*, the first of her Woman at the Helm Mystery Series. Learn more about Rolynn at <https://www.rolynnanderson.com/>

The monthly meetings begin with a Round Table Critique

Session at 5:15 p.m. where Terry Sanville and Susan Tuttle will provide input on your work. You are welcome to bring a piece for critique. Submissions must be kept two pages, typed, 12-point font, double spaced. The service is free to NW members, and there is a charge of \$5 for non-members. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings. Come celebrate writing



President's Letter

by Janice Konstantinidis



Welcome to February and to some much welcome rain over the last several weeks.

It's great to see the hills green again. I am looking forward to seeing the wildflowers this year, I think they are going to be lovely.

February is always an amazing time for me. Last year's leaves fallen, along side new season's bulbs. I always think: "Surely you can't be popping up again!" But they are, and in my case some bulbs in

bloom beside my pumpkin from Halloween—it seems too good to throw away.

I draw hope, in an ever changing and complex world, from my knowledge that the seasons will support my need for stability in these times.

Last month we lost Mary Oliver, a wonderful poet.

A quote from The New York Times:

"Mary Oliver helped us stay amazed." Mary's poetry illuminated the wonderful, the sad and the day to day. I will always be grateful to her for showing me what she saw. R.I.P. Mary Oliver.

Kind regards,

*Janice Konstantinidis
President
SLO NightWriters*

Roots

The earth lays waiting, prepared now for five days,
turned over, will it be tonight?

Alive and vital the roots grow from the stem,
an inch, it said, let them grow an inch.

You procrastinate, going from one to the other.
Earth, to roots and back again.

One more day, let them be really strong.
What if a day is too long?

Plant them tomorrow come what may,
watch another YouTube video,

they know, yes let them tell you,
they've struck many African Violets from a leaf.

—Janice Konstantinidis



And a couple of Aussie Critters. A Bandicoot and a Blue Tongued Lizard, enjoying a home grown berry.



Speaker Spotlight: Our March Guest, Jeanie Hundertmark

An Interactive Learning Experience

by Tammie Burnsed

The elements of successful flash fiction are the same as for long fiction, memoir or creative non-fiction. Whatever the genre, a good story requires a clear protagonist, setting, plot, conflict and resolution in order to keep a reader engaged. Flash fiction manages to do all of that in less than 2000 words, and in some cases, much less.

Our guest speaker on March 12 will help members of NightWriters improve their writing in general and increase their chances of getting a piece of flash fiction accepted in digital and print publications.

As a submissions manager for SLONW, Jeanie Hundertmark knows what's required to build a complete story. She's helped many

of our members improve the impact of their flash fiction and smooth out any rough spots in their narrative.

During her presentation, Jeanie will walk through a few great examples of flash fiction from SLONW members whose stories were published in Simply Clear. Using these examples, she'll identify the critical elements of the story and how the author succeeded in meeting the requirements. But Jeanie won't be satisfied to do all the work herself. Get ready to write; a portion of the presentation will be interactive with members drafting first paragraphs and/or story outlines in a timed exercise.

Learn more about the genre of flash fiction and enjoy a creative hands-on exercise with your fellow writers

during this fun and educational evening. Whether you write long or short fiction, memoir or creative non-fiction, join us for an evening of education and fun.

Jeanie Hundertmark is the most recent submissions manager for SLONW and Simply Clear Marketing & Media. She writes essays and short stories, and is working on a novel for middle-grade readers. Jeanie learned to be a stickler for grammar and punctuation while teaching Freshman Composition at Cal Poly while working on her Masters of English. She currently works as a freelance technical writer and quality consultant in the medical device field.

Tammie Burnsed is the new Program Director for SLONW, and she's excited to find smart, engaging speakers for the SLONW monthly meetings.

If you know someone who'd give a great presentation on writing or publication or other topics that could enhance the writing life of our members, or if you'd like to give one yourself, contact

Tammie at writer-tjburns@gmail.com.

Fellow Writers

Is a writing partner sick? Need encouragement?

Getting married or having a baby?

Suffering from the loss of a loved one?

Email me, Torry Dickinson, at torrydickinson@gmail.com

and I'll send them a card from their SLO NightWriters family.

Torry

Kudos, Kudos, Kudos...

Meagan Friberg

Meagan Friberg's photo and article on Hansen Winery were selected as the cover photo and feature article in the Winter edition of SLO Visitor's Guide.

Meagan also wrote a number of articles about the recent Women's March, and San Luis Obispo County's involvement for local publications. Lo and behold in the photos—there's our NW member Andrea Chemlick right in the midst. Congratulations everyone involved. I hear there were over 5,000 participants this year.

Terry Sanville

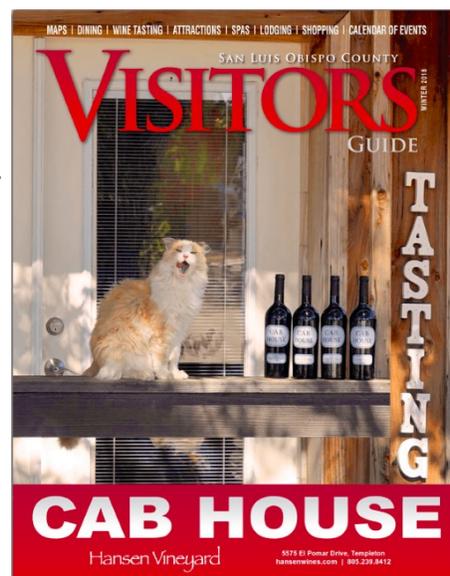
Terry Sanville's flash fiction story *Animus* will be included in the Spring 2019 edition of *Parentheses Journal*, a beautifully-designed e-book and print journal. Check them out at <http://www.parenthesesjournal.com/>

"It's a good year already" Terry says.

Terry's op-ed story "Wanting Pain to Go Away Isn't a Crime" was published in the *NewTimes* newspaper, the January 10-17 edition. Too bad copies aren't still on newsstands, but probably available on their website. (Backstory: Terry responded to an article about senior abuse of drugs in the *NewTimes* with compliments and by sending his own opinion piece to the *NT* reporter. The reporter forwarded it to the Editor-in-Chief and it was published in the very next issue—without changes. Yeah!)

Ruth Starr

Ruth Starr had a story published in the online magazine, *Perspectives*, called *Turkey Vulture Convention*.



Click on the link below to read her stories:

www.slostarr.weebly.com

Have Kudos to Crow About?

Do you have a recent article or story published in a local, national or even international print or online magazine? Or a book published?

How about a review, or an award, honor or recognition of your writing?

If so, we'd like to know about it. To have your literary kudos included in WordSmiths, send an email to Lillian Brown at lil-liofslo@aol.com by the 15th of the previous month.



"This past year, we have witnessed many people stepping forward with their truth," said Women's March SLO Co-Organizer Andrea Chmelik. Women's March SLO Organizers (from left) Dawn Addis, Terry Parry, Andrea Chmelik, Pat Harris and Jen Ford.

—Photo by Peter Masny

Brian Schwartz Provides Host of Publishing Tips

Review & Photos of January Meeting by Dennis Eamon Young



Our presenter for the January 8 NightWriters meeting, the inimitable Brian Schwartz, kept all the scribes scribbling madly throughout the night. He is a delightful Book Promo Expert, sharing up-to-date advice about a wide range of issues, road-blocks and time management techniques.

Bright Shiny Objects! Brian sees this as one of a writer's worst enemies. You all know it as the Internet. We may see it as a benign and helpful tool, but Brian gave us all his admonishment about the dangers of this siren song and its allure of constant distractions which leads us to crash upon the rocks of blank pages, poor work and perhaps even blown deadlines.

Brian himself is a confessed workaholic overachiever, but utilizes a special bag of tools to streamline work projects, including a 25 minute limit, so as not to get bogged down along the way. Do not get distracted and break the chain. Some other points that need to be made would be the need for setting definitive goals, accountability, using deadlines and rewards.

He prescribes using the 'Hemingway Method,' which is to always leave a piece unfinished, so you must go

back to work on whatever it may be. A definite resource for Brian is YouTube, which is the No. 2 search engine, but a special resource is other people, especially 'experts' such as techs in various fields.

Let's take a quick look at Brian's process:

- Get your work out to Beta readers six months in advance.
- Publish e-book (free) on Kindle and blast out e-mail ads – book will get added to Amazon Best Buy list.
- Place ads for book with photo of cover and review on AMS Amazon.com
- Look at cost per click.
- How do you learn to do all this—by doing!
- Track ads to sales.
- Upload screenshot of No.1 Bestseller with cover and send out press releases.
- Look at who needs speakers (radio shows, book signings, groups) and get to it.

Brian reminded everyone of the 80/20 rule: 80 percent of everything we do produces 20 percent of the results. Write for profit--write into most popular areas. Audible.com is the biggest force in audio. Anchor.fm

makes podcasts easy.

Remember: Don't beat yourself up for who you aren't! Be yourself. You must always do your best work.

Brian Schwartz is truly a NightWriters treasure, willing to help, share and be a resource. It was a pleasure to have him as an honored speaker.

You can reach Brian at: brian@selfpublish.org

The meeting started out the new year with the critique table full as ever, being manned by Terry Sanville alone, as Susan Tuttle was out sick. Nevertheless, spirits were high, many pages were shared and critiqued with lots of smiles. For those in the know, this is the place to be to learn about the satisfaction inherent in the high art of critique.

Our own Jean Moelter spoke about her radio show on KYXZ 107.9 FM. She does lively interviews of writers, musicians, artists and all sorts of creative people. You can contact her at artsypeople@yahoo.com. Jean provides a wonderful resource for the community.

Photos from January Meeting with Brian Schwartz

by Dennis Eamon Young



More Photos from January Meeting with Brian Schwartz

by Dennis Eamon Young



And, left, a comic, artist not identified.

TIPS AND TIDBITS

by Judythe Guarnera

Is Learning the Craft of Writing Detrimental to Enjoying a Good Book?

— Stephen King said, "If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time or the tools to write."

Have you noticed that, as a writer, you are much more critical of the books you read than you were in your pre-writing days? I used to breeze through a book if it had an interesting story line and appealing characters. When my husband asked me the title of a book I was reading, I would often have to look at the cover to answer his question. I was more interested in the plot and how it ended than in what the title was.

Immersed in a story, it was easy to overlook technical errors.

After years of attending workshops and conferences, participating in and facilitating writing groups; beta reading other author's work; being a major consumer of books and columns on writing published by experienced authors, reading a book today is a whole different experience.

To further complicate the 'reading a book for fun experience,' I have edited anthologies, books, and many short stories, essays, memoir pieces, and creative non-fiction.

When I sit down to read for pleasure, I find myself reviewing and editing. I have to consciously take off that hat, so I can fully absorb the story before me. It's not easy.

The other day, while reading the prologue to Michelle Obama's *Becoming* to my husband, I was hooked right away. But then, without any conscious volition on my part, I noticed I was once again wearing my editor's hat. Thank heavens for my husband who immediately called me on it and I made a conscious effort to turn off editing mode.

Being a writer and a consumer of new writing techniques, especially related to editing my own work and that of others, has tarnished a bit the pure pleasure of a story I used to experience.

Yet, there's an upside to the way my reading has evolved. Today, the enjoyment I experience when reading is heightened by how well the writer plies his craft. Character and plot development, tension, pacing, emotional impact, and setting are a few of the things that make or break a story for me. The more I know about the craft, the more I appreciate good writing when I see it.

You might be asking if I'm implying that what I look for to determine how well the writer writes are all skills I've mastered.

Regretfully, no. Yet, I find reading and critiquing what I read helps me to recognize flaws in my own writing and to then pursue information on the skills I need to learn to eliminate the flaws.

The fact that I recognize writing mistakes that others make is one step toward mastering my craft. Step two is applying that awareness to my own work.



Add to that the inspiration and modeling a reader is exposed to in good writing of any genre and you have several reasons to make sure you allow time for reading as well as writing.

I'm convinced that Stephen King had the above in mind, when he insisted that writers must also be readers. But do take off your writer's hat at times, find a comfortable chair, brew a cup of tea, and read just for the sheer pleasure of reading a good story.

*In the Rhythm
of Writing,
Judythe Guarnera*



Last Minute Shopper

by Rod Pound

It wasn't his idea, he didn't want to be there and if he heard one more Christmas carol, someone was going to pay.

"It'll be fun. You never want to go to these things but afterwards, you're always glad you did."

"I said I'd go."

"Did you get something for the gift exchange, Mr. Grumpy? You should see what..." Charlotte's voice fades into their bedroom

He glances around the living room. Nothing. Now, the kitchen cabinets. He pulls down a pile of dishes and retrieves a large ornate bowl.

"Come to papa, you gift, you."

Drawers yield a paper bag, scotch tape and a red ribbon. He proudly displays the end product when Charlotte steps into the kitchen.

"That's your idea of gift wrapping?"

"It's the spirit of giving that matters, not the wrapping."

"Hmm."

He was silent on the ride over. Not her.

"I've waited all year for this. So many people I haven't seen forever. I can't wait to pick out a gift."

He couldn't wait for her to shut up.

"So glad you came." Air kisses. He forces a smile.

He stuffs his red-ribbon-wrapped paper bag under the tree as far back as possible, then wanders into the kitchen looking for anything to blunt the happiness that's seeping through the walls.

"Hey, dude. Wanna beer?"

Great. Someone to share my misery.

"Oh, hell yes."

"Charlotte make you come?"

"Guess."

"Me too. Not Charlotte...Nancy." He laughs at his own joke.

The pair lean against the counter, sipping and exchanging silent nods. It's sufficient conversation.

"Should've known." Nancy is in the doorway, hands on hips. "Into the living room, Scrooges. Now."

Grumbling compliance as the duo enter a room overflowing with smiling faces.

"Oh, man," he whispers to his partner in crime.

"On a stick," is the quiet response.

"Everybody have their number?" Nancy inquires,

Congratulations to Rod Pound, published in the December 6-19 issue, 2018 issue of Coast News

waving a small piece of paper. "I've got number one!"

He slowly unfolds his paper. Number two.

Nancy attacks the gifts, shaking each. This one? No. That one? No. She stretches to reach far under the tree.

"This one!" she exclaims, pulling a red-ribbon-wrapped paper bag from the pile. "It's a bowl," she squeals, holding it high. "Oh, my. It's really old," she adds, admiring its markings. "Someone ignored the \$10 limit. Please, don't take it from me. I need to get it appraised."

He was no stranger to Charlotte's "looks." This was different. He envisioned driving north in their motorhome, alone, working for gas money and parking overnight at a Costco outside of Redding.

"Yes," Charlotte answers, but looking directly at him. "I imagine it's quite valuable. Possibly a gift from someone's great grandmother."

"Uh...yeah...probably."

He's up and heading for Nancy. "I've got number two."

Nancy reluctantly gives up the bowl.

He's handing it to Charlotte when a voice from across the room wipes the smile from his face.

"Not so fast. I've got Number Three."

And just like, that he's empty handed.

"Pick another gift," voices exclaim in unison.

"Can I take back the bowl?"

"Don't be silly."

His walk to the tree took just over an hour, or so it seemed.

He pulls out a small, flat gift. It's beautifully wrapped. Maybe it's valuable. He could give it to Charlotte and all would be forgiven. He unwraps it. Slowly. Praying.

A plaque: *This is the first day of the rest of your life.*

Charlotte takes the plaque from his hands and pulls a Sharpie pen from her purse. Without hesitation, she crosses out the word *first* and writes, *last*.

"Merry Christmas, sweeeety."

Rod Pound resides in Atascadero with his wife and a large dog. His high school English teacher told him he should be a writer. He was concerned it would interfere with his goal of becoming a rock star. Turned out they weren't mutually exclusive.



WRITER BY THE SEA

by Dennis Eamon Young

In Search of Better Angels

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
– Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. is the only person to be honored with a national holiday in the United States other than past presidents. The man is held in the highest esteem as one of our ‘Better Angels’ and a shining light of our national values. “Well of course,” you say. “everyone knows that. He’s right up there with Nelson Mandela and Sister Theresa.” We accept that these people are in the highest rank and file of those whom we admire as examples of our better angels.

This was not always so. Dr. King has been called the most horrific names, beaten, vilified and excoriated. He was jailed, along with his Freedom-Rider compatriots and regarded as less than human. Then finally, he was assassinated.

Mr. Mandela fought the

apartheid system of government in South Africa, was labeled a criminal and terrorist and finally jailed for decades, before becoming a revered leader and shining example to the world.

Sister Theresa spent a lifetime in service to poor, homeless, starving masses, lionized by some and reviled and doubted by others before her status was officially confirmed as a saint on earth. She only revealed much later in life that she had always been wracked with doubts about herself, her mission and even about God.

We humans are forever chasing the dream of perfection, looking hither and yon for those who will lift us up from the quagmire of conflicted passions in which we exist. We desire clean, unsullied and unimpeachable heroes. We create religions, elect leaders, elevate warriors of various causes, all in

the desire to claim a part of that sublime unassailable goodness.

“The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” Thoreau claimed from his holier than thou perch, while living at the behest of those who housed, clothed and fed him, as well as bailing him out of his problems with authority. Even so, he helped clear our eyes in many ways.

When crafting a protagonist for a new story, if that character starts the life-changing journey in all purity, there will still be temptations and downfalls along the way. Even a better angel must at times drink from a bitter cup, else we would not be able to relate to them, much less aspire to be one with them.

In Harper Lee’s book, “To Kill A Mockingbird,” we are treated to the penultimate father figure, Atticus Finch. Some



claim that the newly discovered and published “Go Set A Watchman” splashes Atticus with a more realistic coloration, but many of us do not give a damn about him being more realistic. Those of us who have grown up with missing fathers, or just those that missed the mark, refuse to give up that first reading of Atticus. He was drawn just fine for us with only a hint of ambiguity. We have no need for him to be doused with a bucket of realism. He was the better angel we all longed for, to be mentored by, to be comforted by and to cool the fever of our youth to just the right degree.

If we are writing about hard-boiled detectives, we will expect them to do whatever needs to be done for the minions of evil to be brought to one kind of justice or another. It is accepted that they will be world-weary, skeptical of everyone’s motivations, even seem morally ambivalent, until the layers of their psychic callouses have been examined so we might see the unwavering rectitude that drives them, showing us the tainted better angel at their core.



SLO Women’s March, January 19, 2019

—photo by D.E. Young

WORD PLAY

by Morgann Tayllor

HOMES FOR HOMOS

He'd heard about a *homophobe* town nearby. But this *homo* word got tangled up in his mind. He wasn't sure he had the right word or the correct definition or even the right information. Other *homo* words, if they existed, weren't in his vocabulary.

* * * *

He hit the brakes when a deer dashed across the road on the **wind**(ing), narrow two-lane mountain highway. With the top down, the altitude cold, the **wind** stabbed his eyes, creating unsolicited **tears**. His **wound** throbbed and a **tear** began to loosen the bandage as he **wound** the steering wheel. Going up was a steep learning curve to nowhere, negotiating a nine percent grade to the top and a white-knuckle corkscrew ride down to the bottom of the mountain, his destination.

*Why was he doing this anyway? It was all the fault of that old dictionary in his rented cabin and no electronic access to the outside world. From his isolated mountain retreat, he'd **read** about this rural county highway but there was too little information. To **read** about it made him want to experience it. Things happened down this road that couldn't be explained. Or could they? He wanted to know **why** this lonely road was named the Highway **to** Homos and what to expect after he arrived. The thought of discovery glinted like the sun reflecting off his window **pane**. **Why**, the itch in his mind was enough to override the residual **pain**, **too**.*

*He couldn't believe the 1966 dictionary had no entry for the word "homophobe." He'd become exasperated and flipped the tome from his desk to the floor, forgotten it was there when an hour later, he tripped over it. He landed on the business end of a hot fireplace poker, which left a quarter-size sizzle on his left wrist. He cleaned and dressed the **wound** himself with a makeshift bandage and no anesthetics. **Two** restless days later the urge to search out the Three Homos became an obsession. The bandage needed changing, but it could wait...*

The village was now in **sight**. At the edge of town, there was the sign: THREE HOMOS, POP. UNKNOWN and below NO HOMOPHOBES ALLOWED. (He remembered now: *homophobes* fear or hate those with same gender preferences.)

At the same **site**, a plaque briefed the history of this cluster of three sibling villages known colloquially and collectively as the Three Homos: **Homograph**, **Homophone** and **Homonym**.

Driving through, it was hard to tell where one village ended and the other began. The towns interlocked like pieces of a jigsaw, yet they were dissimilar. Some streets were not linear and others merged, only **to** sneak into culs-de-sac, detours and doubts in the mind.

* * * *

So how do you sort out **two** or more words spelled and pronounced the same (or not), with different definitions, tenses, syllable emphases? These Three Homos are a word *set*. How they interact can be confusing, even for scholars.

Homograph: A word that has the same spelling as another word but with a different sound and meaning. Examples above: **Wind**, **wind**(ing). **Tear**, **tear**. **Why**, **why**. **Read**, **read**. **Live**, **lives**. The suffix "graph" means drawn or written (same spelling).

Homophone: A word with the same sound as another word but is spelled differently and has a different meaning. Examples above: **To**, **too**, **two**. **Sight**, **site**. **Pain**, **pane**. The suffix "phone" means sound or voice (same pronunciation).

Homonym: This is where the culs-de-sac, detours, and doubts converge. Depending on your source of information, **homonym** can mean (1) EITHER a word spelled like another but has a different sound and meaning (*homograph*) OR a word spelled and pronounced like another but has a different meaning (*homophone*). It can also mean (2) BOTH a *homograph* AND a *homophone*. The suffix "nym" means name.

In whatever form, words **live** with a purpose. Their **lives** depend on it; the language thrives on it. *Homo sapiens* can't survive without it.

CRITIQUE GROUP COORDINATOR'S CORNER

by Patricia Gimer

This month I visited the Hi Hopes critique group, coordinated by Sharon Sutliff in San Luis Obispo. I had been a member of that group many years ago and it still felt like home. Sharon's place is all glass along the entire back and looks out on a sloped, terraced yard, full of bird feeders, birds, and fruit trees. I found myself going into a trance as I stared out onto that lovely, meditative space.

It was an off-month for the Hi Hopes group, with Sharon and only

two other members in attendance. Shirley continues to work on her memoirs and read a piece about the progression of her camping adventures with her husband - think bare ground to trailer complete with facilities.

Terry read a piece he is considering sending in as a reprint. Not surprising for Terry, it felt like an episode of The Twilight Zone. We were all fascinated throughout.

The group reminisced about Audrey, a long-time, talented teacher and writer whose memo-

rial service was held just last Saturday. I was disappointed that I wasn't able to thank her again for her critiques of my early writing. "Jesus wept," I recall her saying when she observed how many unnecessary words I used. I'll always remember Audrey for that. As a matter of fact, she is one of the reasons I volunteered as SLO NightWriter's Critique Group Coordinator two years ago. I wanted to contribute to an organization that had given me so much.

Hi Hopes generally meets the second and fourth Mondays from 9 a.m. to



12 p.m. and sometimes has as many as eight members attending. Carol, Ruth, Francis, Jane and Mike were not able to make it this week. That's a fairly big group, so I'd consider it full, but if interested, call Sharon Sutliff to request a visit. Visitors are always welcome to SLO NightWriter Critique Groups.

Write Away,
Pat

Writers on the Radio

NightWriter Jean Moelter is the host of Artsy People, the radio show that promotes local artists of all kinds, their work, and events. Thursdays at 2 p.m. with a rebroadcast Mondays at 5 p.m. It's heard on KYXZ Excellent Radio 107.9 FM out of Grover Beach.

Have you just published a book? Would you like to tell the community about it? Consider being a guest on Artsy People. Just send an email to Jean at artsypeople@yahoo.com. Or, if you have an event coming up, such as a book signing, email an announcement to Jean and she'll read it on the air.

Jean interviews a different artist, live, each week at the Excellent Radio station. So far, three NightWriters have been guests on the show. Jean has also interviewed musicians, storytellers, actors, and comedians.

To listen to past interviews, and to see the list of upcoming guests, go to Jean's website and click on Artsy People in the menu: <https://sites.google.com/view/jeanmoelter> Don't miss this great marketing opportunity for authors.

Great White Pyrenees

For Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. 1918–2014 who called me “Patty Darling” and at age 95 was found in his rose garden, still smiling...

He plops down, a succession of lanky segments
collapsing with a sigh across the enormous cushion
just inside the barn door,
this tender giant, “Bear”
finally surrendering to sleep.

At dawn the door slides open –
he dashes out – circling pastures
where noble steeds once grazed,
barking down ground-squirrel tunnels,
marking territory, putting the coyotes on notice.

Tail fluttering, he trots to your side –
brown eyes pleading, wet nose nuzzling
your purple-veined hands
for an offering – just one more treat
before the heavens open up?

He revels in your smile, your cobalt eyes,
the deep velvet of your voice, and
the benevolence of your touch
as you reach out from your patio chair to
stroke his broad head.

You share a majestic natural landscape,
a rich tapestry of understanding –
that the same warm breeze
that ruffles his flowing coat
tousles your own shock of snow-white hair.

On that last day, save for your familiar scent
a sigh of resignation at your empty chair
and at sunset, after he’s ushered inside,
in the gap between the closed barn doors –
a brilliant sliver of light.

By Patricia Gimer 5/2/2014

**“Substitute 'damn' every time you're
inclined to write 'very;' your editor will
delete it and the writing will be just as it
should be.”**

— Mark Twain



**Beauty discovered at the El Chorro
Botanical Gardens.**

—photo by Megan Frieberg



PEN Reads
PEN America's Literary Newsletter

Check out the first edition of PEN Reads, the new monthly newsletter on the books, writers, and ideas capturing Pen America's interest and, we hope, deserving of yours.

We will keep you up to date on all the extraordinary work PEN America does in support of literature—from literary awards to exciting public events to programs that unleash the power of the word to new communities of writers. (And that's only the beginning . . .)

This is an exciting experiment for us—and in that spirit, we anticipate we might tinker with it as we go. So, let us know what you like (and what you don't). We'd love to hear your thoughts. You can email us at publicprograms@pen.org. Happy reading! This is the website with all details. <https://mailchi.mp/pen/introducing-pen-reads-our-new-literary-newsletter?>

NightWriters REVIEW BOARD

As writers, we need to read in order to see what's being done out there. We also learn what works and what doesn't, what we need to avoid and what we want to incorporate into our own bag of skills.

So, as long as we're reading, why not read other members' books and then write reviews for them? It's a win-win for everyone: we learn by reading, and authors garner those all-important reviews for their work.

NW has set up a NW Review Board, where we connect NW member readers with NW member writers' new works. Below you will find a listing of members who are willing to read and review (on Amazon, Goodreads, or their other favorite review site) specific works by other NW members. You

must be a NW member in good standing to take advantage of this new board.

If you have a new book for review, just contact the reader(s) listed here, and arrange to have a book sent to them. Please check carefully to make sure your genre fits the genres each person reads.

Review Board Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Genres</u>
Tina Clark	theclarkfour@sbcglobal.net	sci-fi, creative nonfiction
Jim Aarons	jin@jeadv.com	historical fiction
Steve Bowder	sbowder@live.com	historical novel
Jennifer Rescola	jkrescola@charter.net	autobiography, novels
Steven McCall	steven.mccall7@gmail.com	literary fiction
Jody Nelson	jjnteacher@gmail.com	fiction, creative nonfiction
Mary Silberstein	luvlamas@gmail.com	poetry, fiction
David Brandin	dbrandin@earthlink.net	political, historical, general, science fiction
Martha Raymond	mrth.raymond@gmail.com	YA fiction, literary fiction
Brian Schwartz	brian@selfpublish.org	nonfiction
Ruth Cowne	abuela10@att.net	memoir, flash fiction
Susan Tuttle	aim2write@yahoo.com	mystery, suspense, paranormal suspense
Mark Arnold	markarnoldphd@gmail.com	historical, science fiction

**To be added to our Review Board listing, write to: lilliofslo@aol.com and put Newsletter Info in the subject line.*

SLO NightWriter Officers

President: Janice Konstantinidis
 Vice-President: **Vacant**
 Secretary: Leonard Carpenter
 Treasurer: Steve Derks
 Program Director: Tammie Burnsed
 Membership Coordinator: Jim Aarons
 Critique Group Coordinator:
 Patricia Gimer
 Social Media/Publicity Coordinators:
 Meagan Friberg &
 Abigail Aarons
 Submissions Manager:
 Jeanie Hundertmark
 Welcome Committee: Jean Moelter
 Sunshine Chair: Torry Dickinson
 Website Master:/Membership
 Janice Konstantinidis
 Web Assistant: Steve Derks
 Newsletter Editor: Lillian Brown
 Art Director/Photographer:
 Dennis Eamon Young
 Member at Large: **Vacant**
 NW Historian: **Vacant**

We Need Your Help

The success of non-profit organizations like NightWriters depends on its members. We all have talents other than writing that any organization could make use of. NightWriters has many special opportunities for members to get involved, working “behind the scenes.” If you’d like to assist in any capacity, email: jkon50@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings

NightWriters’ Evening Meetings: the second Tuesday of every month, year round. We encourage interested visitors to join us. Admission free; refreshments served. Next Meeting: February 12, 2019, at United Church of Christ, 11245 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo 93405.

General meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Round Table presentations start at 5:15 p.m. Writers’ Critique Groups: Free for members, \$5 for non-members. These groups read and critique each other’s work and discuss the business of writing. Visitors are always welcome. For details, visit our website: www.slonightwriters.org.

Have You Checked Out Our Website Lately?

Control Your Own Information

Post your bio, picture, book covers and ordering links. Contribute a writing blog post-free publicity!

MEMBER SITE LINKS

List your website(s) and blog(s) with live links — makes it easier for the public to find you and helps build your platform.

BOOK REVIEWS

Get your book reviewed. Write a review—it’s a valid publishing credit.

WRITERS SERVICES

Do you have a writing or professional skill? Get listed on our new Services Page. (Returning next issue.)

FACEBOOK

Become a “Fan” of NightWriters! Visit NW’s Facebook page and sign up today! Also, link your Facebook page and your websites and blogs to NW sites.

LinkedIn

Connect with NW on LinkedIn. Help build your author platform with writing professional connections.

Moved or Changed Email?

Notify NW of any change in address or email: slonightwriters@yahoo.com. Join NW and send dues or renewal checks (payable to SLO NightWriters) to: SLO NightWriters, PO Box 2986, Paso Robles, CA 93447. Or join/renew online through our website: www.slonightwriters.org and pay with credit card, or through PayPal.

Submit Stories, Photos and Ads to the Newsletter

We will publish advertisements for NightWriters' books and book or writing related events. This advertising is Free For Members. Please provide the graphic (book cover or other graphic) for the announcement.

We will also accept original photographs, and unpublished Flash Fiction between 400-800 words from current members. Excerpts from published works, if they stand alone as their own mini-story, are also acceptable. We are also interested in articles, kudos and event notices. And if you have any other ideas for content, please let me know.

Send all submissions as attachments to: lilliofslo@aol.com, and be sure to put NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION in the subject line. We're all writers... so, take advantage of this opportunity to be published in your newsletter.

Lillian Brown, Editor

"I love deadlines. I love the whooshing sound they make as they go by."

— *Douglas Adams*
The Salmon of Doubt



Complete Editing Services
Let me help you Write It Right
Susan Tuttle, Award Winning Author

Proofreading: spelling, punctuation, and grammar only. The last step before publication.

Cost: \$5/3 pages

What you get: a corrected document. Turnaround time @ 1 week for a 250-300 page manuscript.

Line Editing: spelling, punctuation, grammar, word usage, sentence construction, consistency of voice/style.

Cost: \$5/page

What you get: two documents, one corrected (spelling, punctuation, grammar only), one with suggestions in track changes. Turnaround time @ 1-1/2 weeks for a 250-300-page manuscript.

Developmental Editing: full evaluation of the story and plot, including character development and growth, story arc, use of language, point of view, tense, consistency/believability of story line, subplots, beginning and ending, setting, author's voice/style, etc. Includes spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Cost: @ \$850-\$1,200 for 250-300-page manuscript, depending on amount of work the manuscript needs. Flat rates also available.

What you get: a document with track changes for spelling, punctuation and grammar, and comments, suggestions, and examples on ways to improve the work. Turnaround time: 2-3 weeks, depending on amount of work needed.

I will never rewrite your work, I will only suggest ways you can make it better, with examples for clarification. My goal is to help strengthen your unique author's voice while making sure you tell the best story you can write.

Beta Reading Services also available, \$50/book.

Contact me at: editme1@yahoo.com